

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : Unassigned Confirmation No.
Applicant : Hans Rauch
Filed : Herewith
TC/A.U. :
Examiner :
Docket No. : 71549-004
Customer No. : 029493

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

The following information and attached material are submitted for the Examiner's consideration relative to one or more of the claims in the above-identified application. Form PTO-1449 and a copy of each item listed thereon are attached.

Foreign language patent document EP 0 992 187 is discussed by the applicant in the Related Art section of the application beginning on page 1, Item 2. The relevance of the document to the claimed subject matter in this application is believed to be explained in the application. EP 0 992 187 was also cited in the German search report for German Patent Application 103 03 380.7, the priority document in the above application.

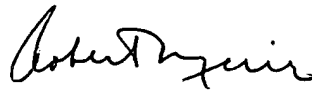
The other foreign language patent documents, DE 35 12 992, DE 73 02 542 and DE 41 38 2/13 were cited in the German search report. Also attached is a copy of the

German search report and an English language version of that report to explain the relevance of the citation(s) cited therein as per MPEP 609A(3).

One or more of the documents may have markings thereon. No inference should be made from the markings.

It is believed that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure §609. If for some reason the examiner considers otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be called so that any deficiencies can be remedied.

Respectfully submitted,



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Information Disclosure Statement – PTO 1449 (Modified)

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Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.